Charter for Class Politics

We the undersigned, believe that the main division in Ireland, North and South, is one of class. For too long the workers' movement has been weakened by sectarianism.

Until now, workers have been told to wait until the question of the border is solved. The time for those excuses is over. The promise of the referendum was an era of peace and prosperity.

We believe that this will not be handed to us by multinational investors or their political representatives, but will take campaigns and struggles by working people.

Many of our trade union leaders are advising partnership with the bosses to attract inward investment. This can openly mean a scramble for low-paid, insecure, non-union jobs.

We believe the way to finally overcome sectarianism is a united struggle of all workers in their common interests. Therefore we unite behind the following demands:

- A minimum wage. For a full TUC claim of £4.61 an hour, with no exemptions.
- For full trade union rights. Repeal the Tory anti-union laws.
- Free education. No tuition fees, abolish the 11 plus
- Stop privatisation of public services
- Tax the rich to pay for hospitals and welfare

We further pledge ourselves to support any group of workers involved in campaigns or industrial action over these or other progressive issues.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name _____

Workplace _____

Trade Union _____

Union Position _____

Phone number _____

Donation towards cost of producing the publicity _____

TO BE PUBLISHED

For extra copies or to invite a speaker to your union meeting, phone (01504) 308 662 or (01232) 594 025
Return completed copies of the Charter to PO Box 354, Tomb St, Belfast

Charter for Class Politics

The gap between our hopes for peace, or the promise of change from the Blair government, and the reality of most working people's lives is continually widening.

The Charter for Class Politics was started by socialists in Belfast and Derry after the referendum in May this year. Wherever it has been taken into workplaces, the demands have met with widespread support from trade union activists.

One of the purposes of the Charter is to demonstrate that those people concerned about working class issues should know they are not isolated individuals.

We now want the Charter to be taken up as widely as possible in the trade union movement and to lay the basis for a serious and effective support network for any group of workers who campaign or struggle to improve their lives.

We urge every trade union activist to endorse the aims of the Charter and raise it at their union meetings.

We hope to publicise the Charter as widely as possible through the media and with public meetings in early September.

The Charter has been endorsed so far by the following trade unionists:

Jim Barber, Fire Brigade Union, National Executive; **Jim Quinn**, Fire Brigade Union, regional committee member; **Rob Williams**, Fire Brigade Union, branch chair, Bangor; **Willis McBriar**, BECTU, branch chair, BBC Belfast; **Avril Barker**, BECTU assistant branch secretary; **Sam Thompson**, BECTU branch secretary **plus 8 others**; **John McAlleese**, former Montupet strike committee; **Eamonn McCann**, journalist and NUJ branch chair, North West Ulster branch; **Cathy McMilton**, NIPSA women's officer; **Paul Laughlin**, NIPSA branch secretary, Derry; **Kenny Adams**, NIPSA branch chairperson, Derry; **Beverly Bigger**, NIPSA branch chairperson, Ballyclare; **Susan McArdle**, NIPSA womens' officer, Banbridge; **Jeff Watt**, NIPSA branch secretary, Cullybackey; **B Brennan**, NIPSA branch secretary, Belfast; **S Vennard**, NIPSA branch secretary, Belfast; **D Blackwood**, NIPSA department committee member, Derry; **P O'Hare**, NIPSA rep, Belfast Education and Library Board; **A Dickson**, NIPSA rep, Department of Education, L'Derry; **Stuart Beattie**, NIPSA rep, Branch 12, Belfast; **C Heaney**, NIPSA conference delegate, Banbridge; **Heather White**, NIPSA branch committee member, Banbridge Social Services; **R Adams**, NIPSA branch chair, Dept. of Vehicle Licensing, Coleraine; **Alan McMeekir**, NIPSA rep, Branch 708, South and East Belfast Health and Social Services; **Barbara Muldoon**, NIPSA women's officer, Housing Executive, Belfast; **Gerry Quigley**, TGWU shop steward, Lisahally docks, Derry and international delegate to Dockworkers Conference; **Damien Walls**, INTO shop steward, Derry Trades Council; **Kevin McCafferty**, CWU branch secretary, British Telecom, Derry Trades Council; **Peter Black**, TGWU shop steward, Befast leisure centres; **Dawn Stewart**, TGWU assistant shop steward, Maysfield leisure centre; **Mark Hewitt**, NASUWT rep, Belfast; **Linda Moore**, NIPSA rep, NIACRO, Belfast; **John Otterson**, BECTU rep, BBC Foyle, **plus 6 others**; **Seamus Quigg**, Fire Brigade Union, chair, Northland Road Branch **plus 5 others**; **Roy McGivern**, NIPSA rep, Social Security Agency, Belfast; **Jim Larmour**, GPMU shop steward, Boxmore, Belfast; **Tommy Rocks**, SIPTU shop steward, Whiterock Leisure Centre, Belfast; **Elizabeth McCallum**, NIPSA branch chairperson, Orchard House, Derry; **Bob Lindsay**, ATGWU shop steward, Derry; **Siobhan Reynolds**, USDAW shop steward, Tesco, Belfast, **plus 18 others**; **Jim Lynch**, NIPSA branch chairperson, Training and Employment Agency, Waterloo Place, Derry; **Margaret Lawrence**, USDAW branch secretary, Wellworths, Derry; **M McGrogan**, TGWU shop steward, Eason's, Belfast; **Maxine Murphy**, NIPSA branch chairperson, Child Support Agency (CSA), Belfast; **Paddy McGrath**, NIPSA assistant secretary, CSA; **Paul Goodman**, NIPSA branch organiser, CSA; **David Carlin**, NIPSA rep, CSA; **Peter Donnelly**, NIPSA rep, CSA; **Ian Bell**, NIPSA health and safety officer, CSA; **Elaine Goodwin**, NIPSA women's officer, CSA; **Carol Barnett**, NIPSA rep, CSA; **Leslie Ann Lewis**, NIPSA rep, CSA; **Karen Whyte**, NIPSA rep, CSA; **Eilish McCartney**, NIPSA rep; **Pearl Kassianides**, NIPSA rep, CSA; **Martin Mullan**, NIPSA health and safety officer, CSA; **Elaine McCrory**, NIPSA rep, CSA; **Andy Kennedy**, NIPSA health and safety officer, CSA; **Cathy McMillan**, NIPSA women's officer, CSA; **Tom McGowan**, NIPSA branch secretary, Social Services, Derry; **Margaret Coyle**, NIPSA branch chair, Waterside House, Derry

What you can do

- **Sign the charter**
- **Take it around your workplace and get other union activists to sign it**
- **Invite a speaker from the campaign to address your next union meeting**
- **Pass a motion at your union meeting endorsing the Charter and including a donation towards the cost of publicity.**